



*Embajada de Guatemala  
Washington, D.C.*

Washington, D.C. October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2007

The Honorable  
William D. Delahunt  
United States House of Representatives  
2454 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC. 20515

Dear Congressman Delahunt,

I am writing in response to your letter dated October 18, 2007, regarding your concern that international adoptions in Guatemala could be suspended on January 1, 2008.

On this matter, I would like to inform you that President Berger this week denied the rumors that his Government was planning to stop international adoptions, particularly all those in the pipeline, when the new law is approved and The Hague Convention on International Adoptions comes into force.. On a news conference held on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup>, 2007, the President stated that what his Government wants is to fully respect the legislation that is about to be approved in compliance with the Hague Convention.

In order to implement The Hague Convention, the Government of Guatemala is working on developing a central authority that will regulate all matters concerning both domestic and international adoptions. This authority would regulate practices in order to approve all those Guatemalan organizations working on the adoption sector, as well as the foster homes. As well as the current system of notary adoptions, adoptions facilitation and the existing system of foster homes. Total transparency in client fee schedules will be required to the approved organizations working with the central authority.

Due to the fact that the final version of the Bill of Law has not been approved and published by Congress, I cannot assure you specific details on the thousands of cases in the pipeline. However, members on both, the Executive and Legislative Branches have said that the new Legislation will not affect the processes that have already started. The intention of the pending adoptions is just a full review to verify the identity of the woman that is relinquishing the rights on the child; that she is the natural mother, that the child is given for adoption without coercion and that the process is done according to the law.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any further questions or inquiries you might have.

Sincerely,

*Thank you for your  
support,*

*Guillermo Castillo*  
Guillermo Castillo  
Ambassador

